

Washington State Building Code Council

Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare

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STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. 14-19

CODE: 2012 Washington State Energy Code/Commercial

SECTION: C403.3.1

QUESTION: Exception 1 to this section exempts qualifying small equipment from the

economizer requirement. This exception does not apply to shell and core permits or initial tenant improvements. Are economizers required for simple HVAC systems and equipment used specifically to cool elevator machine rooms and similar spaces in a shell and core or initial tenant improvement

project?

ANSWER: Yes. If mechanical cooling is provided an airside economizer is required

unless one of the following exceptions can be utilized:

1. If the unit equipment meets the capacity limits and efficiency requirements in Exception 3 for residential occupancies, then an economizer is not required.

2. Per the 2014 proposed expedited rule change to Section C403.3.1 Exception 5, a simple system can also be treated as a complex system for qualifying systems under Section C403.4.1 Exception 5. Therefore, a space dedicated to elevator electronic equipment qualifies as an elevator machine room, and if the equipment meets the efficiency requirements in Exception 5 of Section C403.4.1, then an economizer is not required.

REQUEST BY: Pierce County

SUPERSEDES: None